

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claims 1, 7 and 12 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5, 7 and 8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,736,151. Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5, 7 and 8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,736,151 in view of Yang (U.S. 5,553,634). Claims 2-4 and 10 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5, 7 and 8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,736,151 in view of Yang. Claims 8, 9 and 11 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5, 7 and 8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,736,151 in view of itself.

Amendments to Specification

Applicant has amended the Specification as noted above to cure obvious grammatical and idiomatic inaccuracies. The informal wording of “ball-and-socket” mechanism (originally mistaken from “ball-and-socket joint” mechanism), has been canceled in this amendment to prevent from misleading. It is believed that the foregoing amendments to the Specification overcome the outstanding objections thereto. No “new matter” has been added to the original disclosure by the foregoing amendments to the Specification.

Abstract of the Disclosure

Applicant is submitting a substitute Abstract of the Disclosure for that originally filed with this application to more clearly describe the claimed invention. Entry of the Substitute Abstract of the Disclosure is respectfully requested.

Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) insofar as the spring attached runner and the engagement of the ribs, referred to in Applicant's claims, was not illustrated in the figures. Since these terms have been deleted from Applicant's amended claims, it is not believed that any drawing corrections are necessary.

Double Patenting

Applicant submits that amended claim 1 overcomes the "Double Patenting" rejection since the novel characteristic features in original claims 7, 9 and 11 have been incorporated into amended claim 1.

Claim Amendments

By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 7, 9 and 11 and amended claims 1-6, 8, 10 and 12 of this application. It is believed that the amended claims specifically set forth each element of Applicant's invention in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, and define subject matter that is patentably distinguishable over the cited prior art.

The cited reference to Lin '151, which is also granted to the same inventors of this application, discloses an "anti-windforce rib assembly of multiple-fold umbrella" having a buffer device on the spring rib to minimize the wind force so that the strong wind force will be dampened, weakened or released for protecting the umbrella. The spring rib (24) having the buffer device (30) formed on the spring rib (24) is outwardly connected with an outer connecting rib (27) which is then connected with the tail rib (26). So, if the spring rib (24) of Lin '151 is inferentially provided to quickly extend the tail rib (26) for quickly opening the umbrella as an "intended use" as taught by this application, its spring function is quite small since the spring force of the spring rib (24) is primarily actuating the rib (27) and then indirectly acting the tail rib (26). So, the prior art is not suitable for an "intended use" for quickly opening (or closing) the umbrella as effected by this application.

Comparatively, the present invention performs a quickly opening (or closing) function for a multiple fold umbrella, which is novel and not anticipated by the prior art. The outstanding quickly opening function as effected by the present invention is recited as follows:

When opening the umbrella of the present invention, the runner 20r is raised to extend the ribs of the rib assembly 2 to be a generally linear configuration. At this time, the resilient connecting rib 24 has its inner end 241 secured to the spring device 3 and also resiliently cushioned by the spring device 3 held in the stretcher rib 22 to obtain a resilient cushioning for smoothening the operation for opening the umbrella and for preventing noise from occurring among the ribs; and having the resilient connecting rib 24 been arcuately bent to store its resilience, of which the outer end 242 of the resilient connecting rib 24 is simultaneously arcuately bent to get its spring energy.

The spring energy especially existing at the outer end 242 of the connecting rib 24 will restore to automatically quickly bias the joint 27 and the rear rib 26 to be linearly positioned to fully open the umbrella. The umbrella cloth C as secured on the rear rib 26 will be simultaneously extended outwardly for automatically or quickly opening the umbrella. Therefore, there is no need to manually pull (by the user's hand) the umbrella cloth (especially on the rear rib 26) outwardly for fully opening the umbrella, thereby being superior to the prior art of multiple-fold umbrella.

Please note that "quick closing" is a reverse action of the above-mentioned "quick opening", also being supported in originally filed specification.

Accordingly, this application is much improved and patentable over the prior art of Lin '151 as cited by the Examiner.

Applicant submits that amended Claim 1 and dependent claims 2-6, 8, 10, and 12 are now in condition for allowance. The prior art of Yang is now avoided.

Summary

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, it is urged that Applicant's local attorney be contacted at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 5, 2005

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